

## 9.6 Social & Care Occupations

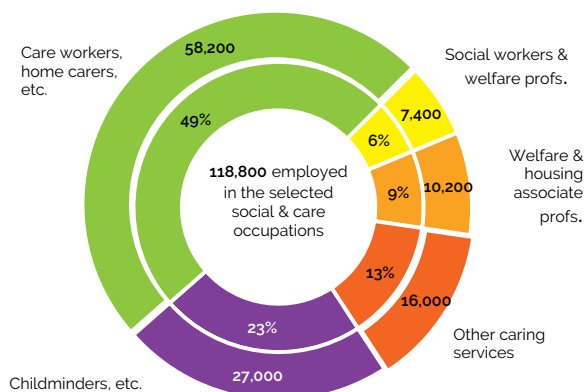
**Overall employment:** Approximately 118,800 persons (82% female) were employed in the selected social & care occupations, representing 5.3% of the national workforce

- **Sector:** 82% of overall employment was concentrated in the health sector
- **Employment growth (5-year):** Between 2013 and 2018, overall employment increased by 19,900 (3.7% on average annually compared to 3.1% nationally). The strongest rate of employment growth was observed for other caring services (13%) during the period.
- **Age:** The 25-54 age group accounted for the majority of persons employed, at 72%. The share of employees aged 55 and over, at 19%, was slightly above the national average of 17%.
- **Education:** The share of persons employed in the selected social & care occupations who had attained higher secondary/FET qualifications was 51%, above the national average share of 37%. Those who had attained third level qualifications (39%) was below the national average share (48%).
- **Full-time/part-time:** Over 66% of social & care workers were in full-time employment
- **Nationality:** The share of non-Irish workers was below the national average of 16%, while 87% of workers were Irish nationals

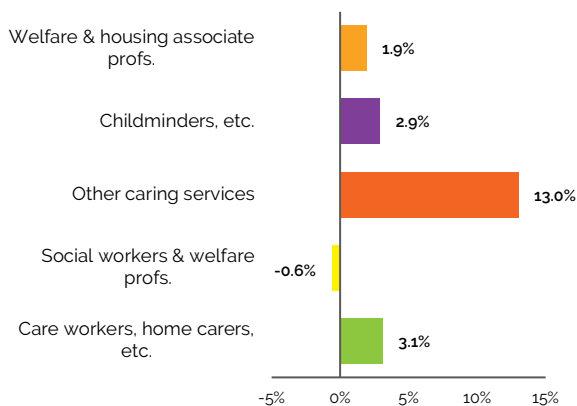
### Overall outlook for these occupations:

Changing demographics is the primary driver of employment for these occupations. Government initiatives including the extension of the ECCE scheme, commitments to increase the quality of childcare provision, and incentives to increase female labour force participation may offset the decline in demand for childcare works due to demographic factors (i.e. fall in the number of 0-4-year-olds in the population). Conversely, Ireland's aging population will drive the demand for care workers.

#### Numbers employed, 2018



#### Average growth rates (%) 2013-2018



Between 2013 and 2018, overall employment increased by 19,900 (3.7% on average annually compared to 3.1% nationally).

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO data

Occupation	Economic summary	Shortage	Occupation shortage details
Welfare & housing associate profs.	No shortages have been identified for this occupation.	●	
Childminders, etc.	Employment growth was below average for this occupation and it featured strongly in the recent job hires analysis indicating that churn is an issue.	●	
Social workers & welfare profs.	While no shortages were identified, demand is evident for social work services in Ireland.	●	
Care workers, home carers, etc.	Employment growth in this occupation is in line with the national average. Many are employed in part-time roles; the recent job hire analysis and the high number of job ready jobseekers previously employed in this occupation indicate that churn is a significant factor in this occupation. Demand for this occupation is expected to grow in the medium term due to aging demographics.	●	— Care workers
Other caring services	Employment growth has been strong for this occupation with demand relating to healthcare assistants, primarily employed in hospitals. While no shortages have been identified, difficulties may emerge should this growth rate be sustained in the longer term.	●	

\*For detailed table see Appendix A